



# POLICY BRIEF



## LACK OF PROSECUTION DESTROYS AMERICAN CITIES

One of the most critical roles of government is to protect its citizens. Civil society is in jeopardy when the very people there to protect you instead decline to prosecute dangerous criminals. Instead, they allow criminals to run rampant through America's formerly premier cities, endangering the populace, stealing from businesses, and damaging property. Taxpayers pay their officials to prevent crime and enforce laws. Those in government who fail to do this are derelict in their duties.

- **Cities across the United States are experiencing a steady increase in crime.**

- From 2019 to 2020, there was a 30% increase in homicides across the United States, the most significant single-year increase our country has ever witnessed.<sup>1</sup>
- The substantial increase in crime was not unique to 2020. In 2022, the murder rate remained 30% above the 2019 level,<sup>2</sup> with major American cities seeing a 40.9% increase over 2019.<sup>3 4</sup>
- In May of this year, the United States Postal Service (USPS) temporarily halted mail delivery to certain Seattle neighborhoods over the rise in mail theft and vandalism.<sup>5</sup> Earlier this year, the city announced it had hit a 15-year high in violent crime in 2022.<sup>6</sup>
- Last year, 56% of Americans believed crime in their area had increased, a record high. Also, 78% of Americans perceived crime had risen across the country.<sup>7</sup>
- Crime became so egregious in liberal San Francisco that radical progressive District Attorney Chesa Boudin was recalled by over a 10-point margin in 2022.<sup>8</sup>

- **Prosecutors are exacerbating the problem by refusing to do their job.**

- The U.S. Attorney for Washington D.C., Matthew Graves, declined to prosecute 67% of all criminal cases in FY 2022. This nearly doubled from 2015, when the U.S. Attorney's office declined prosecution in only 35% of such claims.<sup>9</sup> As of June 2023, the total crime in our nation's capital was up 27% over the same point in the previous year. The year 2022 saw a 230% increase in homicides over ten years prior in 2012.<sup>10</sup>
- In Philadelphia, District Attorney Larry Krasner's office has dropped or lost 26% more felony cases than his predecessor; his office dropped or lost 55% of drug sales cases, compared to just 34% by his predecessor.<sup>11</sup> In the meantime, homicides are up 50%, and shootings have climbed by 54% since he took office.
- In Manhattan, New York, the problem is more intentional. Alvin Bragg, who has served as the District Attorney since 2022, explicitly declared in his first week in office that he would stop prosecuting crimes such as trespassing, prostitution, marijuana possession, and resisting arrest. He also lowered charges for robbery and burglary in both commercial and residential settings.<sup>12</sup>
  - Arguably, the most egregious policy enacted by DA Bragg, as well as other leftist prosecutors across the country, is the elimination of pre-trial detention with only rare exceptions.<sup>13</sup>
  - Former U.S. Attorney General William Barr once estimated that approximately 1% of the population commits well over half of the violent crimes in the United States, with these individuals committing dozens of crimes a year, often while on bail, probation, or parole.<sup>14</sup> In other words, allowing criminals back on the streets means they will further harm their communities by committing more crimes.

- **Liberal organizations bankroll and support prosecutors who campaign on soft-on-crime policies.**
  - Leftist billionaire George Soros has spent \$40 million to fund the elections of 75 nationwide prosecutors, representing roughly 20% of all Americans.<sup>15</sup> Some notable Soros-backed District Attorneys include:<sup>16</sup>
    - Kim Foxx – Cook County, Illinois – During her tenure, Chicago has seen the highest spike in homicides in 30 years. Soros provided her campaign with \$2 million.<sup>17</sup>
    - Parisa Dehgani-Tafti – Arlington County and Falls Church, Virginia – Soros backed her over the moderate Democrat incumbent, and felony aggravated assaults increased by over 40% in her first year in office.<sup>18</sup>
    - George Gascon – Los Angeles County, California – Soros was the largest funder of Gascon during his campaign as the “police reform” candidate. He donated \$2.25 million in Gascon’s efforts to unseat the incumbent. Gascon’s soft-on-crime approach has led to numerous prosecutors resigning and has caused a backlog of 10,000 cases to pile up.<sup>19 20</sup>
  - Soros’ influence and contributions are part of the larger criminal justice reform movement, which decriminalizes destructive behaviors, lessens sentences, and eliminates cash bail.
  - Organizations like the Center for American Progress<sup>21</sup>, the ACLU,<sup>22</sup> and Vera<sup>23</sup> endorse radical bail and sentencing reform policies that the prosecutors above embrace. Some of these progressive policy ideas include:
    - Ending cash bail entirely and pretrial detainment for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.<sup>24</sup>
    - Decriminalization of drugs and prostitution.<sup>25</sup>
    - Abolishing prison sentences, even for homicides, and shifting all sentences downward through de-felonizing and decriminalizing many offenses—all in the name of equity.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> German Lopez. A Shift in Crime. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/23/briefing/crime-rates-murder-robberies-us.html>

<sup>2</sup> *Id*

<sup>3</sup> Violent Crime Survey - National Total. Major Cities Chiefs Association. [https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/mcca\\_violent\\_crime\\_report\\_2019\\_and\\_2018\\_year\\_end\\_update.pdf](https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/mcca_violent_crime_report_2019_and_2018_year_end_update.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Violent Crime Survey - National Totals. Major Cities Chiefs Association. <https://majorcitieschiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MCCA-Violent-Crime-Report-2022-and-2021-Year-End.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Emma Colton. Seattle Crime forces Postal Service to temporarily halt deliveries for entire zip code. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/seattle-crime-forces-postal-service-halt-deliveries-entire-zip-code>

<sup>6</sup> Lauren Girgis. Seattle violent crime hits 15-year high, and 4 more takeaways from new report. The Seattle Times. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-violent-crime-hits-15-year-high-other-takeaways-from-new-report/>

<sup>7</sup> Megan Brenan. Record-high 56% in U.S. Perceive Local Crime Has Increased. Gallup. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/404048/record-high-perceive-local-crime-increased.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> June 7, 2022 Election Results - Summary. Department of Elections. <https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-7-2022-election-results-summary>

<sup>9</sup> Keith Alexander. D.C. U.S. Attorney declined to prosecute 67% of those arrested. Here’s why. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/03/29/us-attorneys-office-charges-declined-dc-police/>

<sup>10</sup> District Crime Data at a Glance. Metropolitan Police Department. <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/district-crime-data-glance>

<sup>11</sup> Jason Johnson. Prosecutors Like Krasner Go Soft-On-Crime And It Has Consequences For Cities. Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund. <https://www.policedefense.org/prosecutors-like-krasner-go-soft-on-crime-and-it-has-consequences-for-cities/>

<sup>12</sup> Charles Stimson, Zack Smith. Meet Alvin Bragg, Rogue Prosecutor Whose Policies Are Wreaking Havoc in Manhattan. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/meet-alvin-bragg-rogue-prosecutor-whose-policies-are-wreaking-havoc>

<sup>13</sup> *Id*

<sup>14</sup> William Barr. Rising Crime Rates Are a Policy Choice. The Wall Street Journal. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/safe-streets-are-a-policy-choice-incapacitation-incarceration-state-federal-prison-violent-crime-1990s-reagan-bush-barr-obama-sentencing-bail-11666785403>

<sup>15</sup> Matt Palumbo. George Soros spent \$40M getting lefty district attorneys, officials elected all over the country. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2023/01/22/george-soros-spent-40m-getting-lefty-district-attorneys-officials-elected-all-over-the-country/>

<sup>16</sup> Parker Thayer. Living Room Pundit’s Updated Guide to Soros Attorneys. Capital Research Center. <https://capitalresearch.org/article/living-room-pundits-updated-guide-to-soros-district-attorneys/>

<sup>17</sup> *Id*

<sup>18</sup> *Id*

<sup>19</sup> *Id*

<sup>20</sup> Marjorie Hernandez. Woke LA DA George Gascon has 10,000-case backlog, ‘toxic’ attitude driving staff away: sources. New York Post. <https://nypost.com/2023/05/24/woke-la-district-attorney-george-gascon-has-10k-case-backlog/>

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<sup>21</sup> Ally Preston, Rachael Eisenberg. Cash Bail Reform Is Not a Threat to Public Safety. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/cash-bail-reform-is-not-a-threat-to-public-safety/>

<sup>22</sup> Smart Justice. American Civil Liberties Union. <https://www.aclu.org/news/by-issue/smart-justice>

<sup>23</sup> New York's Bail Reform Model. Vera. <https://www.vera.org/state-of-justice-reform/2019/bail-reform>

<sup>24</sup> *Id*

<sup>25</sup> A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom, and Justice. M4BL. <https://m4bl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Decrim-Drugs-Sex-Work-with-reparations-Policy-Brief.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Liz Komar, Ashley Nellis, Kristen Budd. Counting Down: Paths to a 20-year Maximum Prison Sentence. The Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/counting-down-paths-to-a-20-year-maximum-prison-sentence/>